(f) if so, details thereof and if no, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) National Handloom Expo 93-94 is currently being organised at Ramlila Grounds, Ajmere Gate, New Delhi with effect from 3-12-1993 to 4-1-1994. The Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms organises National Handloom Expos in the major metropolitan cities of the country to help the handloom weavers to expose their skills and talents in handloom weaving and to clear accumulated stocks piled up with the handloom agencies. 20 per cent rebate is allowed on all purchases reimbursed equally by the Centre and State Government concerned.

(c) and (d) All State Governments| Union Territories were requested to participate in this Expo. The following 18 States|U.Ts. are participating in National Handloom Expo, Delhi :—

Karnataka, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, West Bangal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Assam, Tamilnadu, Pondicherry, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan. National Level Organisations participating in this Expo are All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd. and National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Ltd.

As per guidelines, the participants should be either Apex Societies|State Handloom Development Corporations or Primary Cooperative Societies having an annual sales-turnover of Rs. 50.00 lakhs and above. Not more than five Handloom Agencies from each State are normally allowed to participate in each exhibition on the recommendation of the State Governments concerned.

(e) and (f). During the current financial year (1993-94), a similar Expo has already been conducted at Ahmedabad in November, 1993. It is proposed to organise such Expos at Kanpur, Pune and Hyderabad. The details are given below :—

1. Kanpur (15-1-94 to 13-2-94)

2. Pune (1-2-94 to 2-3-94)

3. Hyderabad (25-3-94 to 24-4-94)

PACKAGE FOR AILING MILLS OF NTC

2704. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have finalised the initial package for the revival and modernisation of ailing mills of the National Textiles Corporation ;

(b) if so, the mill-wise details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to ask the workers of different NTC mills to opt for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(d) Government's reaction in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) Government have approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC involving, inter-alia, selective modernisation, financial and managerial restructuring and rationalisation of surplus workforce under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). An outlay of Rs. 532.78 crores for modernisation, Rs. 200 crores for liquidity, Rs. 689 crores for VRS and Rs. 50 crores for retraining and rehabilitation of workers proceeding on VRS has been earmarked under the Turn Around Strategy. The mill-wise details for the revival of NTC shall be decided by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruc-

tion under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, after assessing their viability and in consultation with all parties concerned.

PRICES AND PRODUCTION OF COTTON

2705. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) What is the applied administered price, external world market reference price and production of cotton for the last three years;

(b) What is the value of cotton according to internal applied administered price and external world market price;

(c) Whether it is fact that cotton is subjected to negative subsidy because of applied administered price; and

(d) if so, whether injustice is not being perpetrated on the cotton growing farmers and reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There no applied administered prices for cotton in India. Only Minimum Support Prices are fixed for different varieties of seed cotton. Minimum Support Prices for 2 major varieties viz. F-414 and H-4 are as under :—

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
F-414	695	800	900
H-4	840	950	1 050

Minimum Export Prices are fixed for exports of cotton. External world market reference prices are the 'A' and 'B' indices announced by 'cotton outlook' liverpool :

Month	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
Sept.	81	77	70	68	56	51
Dec.	84	79	62	59	54	50
Marcl	84	77	55	51	62	57
July	81	75	65	56	58	55

Production of cotton in the last 3 years are as follows :

Year	(Qty. in lakh bales of 170 kgs. each.)
1990-91	117.00
1991-92	119.00
1992-93	135.00